



## SLAY THE MONSTER TOLL ROAD!

Developers and Caltrans are putting the finishing touches on the plan we reported in *The GULL* (April, p. 53) to build a monster toll road through Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties that will:

- destroy irreplaceable prime farmlands;
  - drive two new bridges across the Delta;
  - run destructively close to Native American archaeological sites;
  - spread urban sprawl over open lands;
  - put thousands more cars on the road;
- and that adds up to destroying wetlands, harming the health of Bay and Delta, reducing habitat for endangered species, worsening air quality and opening agricultural land to urban development with a road-for-profit that nobody needs.

And guess what now? This destructive project is about to be adopted by the Bay Area's regional **Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)** before being put through ANY environmental review or real public review.

There is only one chance to stop this project from moving off the drawing boards: stop MTC from adding the road to the Bay Area's Regional Transportation Plan.

Greenbelt Alliance, Save San Francisco Bay, Bay Area Audubon Chapters, the Sierra Club and Solano's Orderly Growth Committee are asking their members to write letters to MTC (and the newspapers!) opposing the inclusion of the Mid-State Toll Road in the Regional Transportation Plan.

By writing today, you can stop the project from gaining any official foothold. By writing today you can help:

- stop the road's promoters from using federal funds to build a for private profit road;
- prohibit the road's developers from trying to use a new federal law permitting new roads through wetlands;
- turn back a wrong from every point of view project.

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## SLAY THE MONSTER...

So, please write MTC opposing including the Mid-State Toll Road alignment in the Regional Transportation Plan. Urge the Commissioners to reject county plans if the alignment for the toll road appears in them. Urge a regional transit oriented program. Write to Chris Brittle, MTC, 101 Eighth St., Oakland, CA 94607-4700. If you do this today, you will be joining many other sensible people in protecting wetlands, keeping farmland in production, halting harm to the Bay and Delta, and stopping the suburban mauling of the Bay Area's greenbelt of open space.

You can also attend the MTC meeting to consider this ill-conceived project on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 10:00 a.m. To do more you can call GGAS or the Greenbelt Alliance.

MARK EVANOFF and JIM SAYER

## MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor a boat trip on Sunday, September 22, on Monterey Bay to view seabirds and marine mammals. We plan a 7:30 a.m. departure from Monterey Harbor. Past trips have produced sightings of albatross, shearwaters, jaegers, alcids, dolphin, whales and other species not usually seen from land. Reservations may be made by sending \$29 per person to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, California 94702. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details on when and where to meet will

be mailed with confirmation notices. For more information call GGAS office at 843-2222.

## SPOTTED OWL LOCATIONS

A Technical Team has been established under the auspices of an interagency State and Federal Steering Committee to assess the current situation of the California Spotted Owl. This subspecies occurs in mountains and dense woodlands from southern California north to the Pit River in the Sierra Nevada. In the mountains of the Coast Range, the California subspecies probably occurs as far north as the San Francisco Bay area, although records are scanty even as far north as Monterey Co. The Technical Team is especially interested in any location of Spotted Owls in the Coast Range from San Luis Obispo Co. north to San Mateo Co. In particular, information is desired on locations of confirmed pairs and/or nests. Audubon members can assist this important project by sending such information to: Dr. Jared Verner, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 2081 E. Sierra Ave., Fresno, CA 93710.

### PHOTOGRAPH WORKSHOP

Count me in for the announced workshop with "Moose" Peterson Saturday, Sept. 14 at Baylands. May check for \$20, payable to GGAS, is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## DON'T MISS THIS ONE:

If you have never attended a meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society this would be one to start with. Wildlife photographer **"Moose" Peterson** will present a multi-projector slide show at our first meeting of the season. The program will begin at **7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12**, in the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley.

California's central valley was once a vast grassland with herds of Tule Elk and Pronghorn stalked by Grizzly Bears. Today the grasslands and the animals they supported are nearly gone. "Carrizo Plains, Last of the Grasslands" looks at the last example of grassland habitat left intact. The Carrizo Plains is the home of many endangered plants and animals which we'll discover by starting below the ground with the sky as the limit. We examine the dependency of life on the plains on the activities of the Giant Kangaroo Rat. This busy nocturnal mammal creates homes for two other endangered species and is the major prey source for another. The presentation covers a decade of research and photography while exploring California's last, vast grassland.

"Moose" Peterson specializes in photographing endangered wildlife's biological history and documenting researcher's recovery efforts. His photos have been published in numerous magazines including *American Birds*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Pacific Discovery*, *Outdoor California*, *National Geographic* and *Western Birds*.

On Saturday, Sept. 14 he will conduct an all day photography workshop at Palo Alto Baylands. The cost is \$20 and participation is limited to twenty. Call 843-2222 to reserve. The evening program is free, as always.

JOELLA BUFFA  
Program Chairman

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, September 7**—Coastal San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers, and vagrants. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

**Wednesday, September 11**—Mini-trip to Alameda south shore and surrounding areas. Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Saturday, Sept. 14**—Palo Alto Baylands wildlife photography workshop with "Moose" Peterson. By reservation only.

**Sunday, Sept. 15**—San Mateo Coast. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot (on the ocean side) at the junction of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and at Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants and shorebirds in the mudflats, plus Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers and tattlers and knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Bring lunch and a light jacket. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983). (✓)

**Sunday, Sept. 22**—Monterey Bay pelagic trip. See announcement on page 122 for details.

**Sunday, September 22**—Point Diablo, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin Co. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the top of Hill 129, where we will watch for migrating hawks and land-birds until 2 p.m.

From San Francisco drive north

across the Golden Gate Bridge and take Alexander Ave. exit. Turn left as if returning to San Francisco, drive under the freeway and bear to the right. Go up to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; continue (past the intersection with a road coming up from Rodeo Valley) to the large tunnels on the right. Drive to the top of the hill, park and walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the observation point at the north end of the hilltop. Bring lunch and liquids. Sun screen, a hat, and a wind-breaker may be advisable. Co-leaders: Carter Faust (453-2899) and Herb Brandt (239-2711). (✓)

**Saturday, September 28**—Lands End, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Palace of the Legion of Honor parking lot (Lincoln Park). From Geary Blvd. go north (toward the bay) on 34th Ave. through the golf course to the top of the hill, and park in the large circular lot to the east (right). We will walk about two miles looking for migrating warblers and Red Crossbills. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983). (✓)

**Sunday, September 29**—Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at Inverness Park at the Knave of Hearts Bakery on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. at 8 a.m. We will concentrate on shorebird identification at Abbott's Lagoon and Limantour Estero. Bring a scope if you have one, lunch and liquids, and comfortable walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. (If in doubt, call.) Leader: Lina Jane Prairie (549-3187). (✓)

**Saturday, October 5**—Beginners' trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. From East Bay take I-880 south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west and take Ardenwood/Newark Blvd. exit. Continue on Ardenwood Blvd. three quarters of a mile to Commerce Dr. and follow signs to Coyote Hills. From San Francisco take Hwy. 101 south beyond

Redwood City, cross the Dumbarton Bridge and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy.; go north one mile to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow signs to Coyote Hills. Bring lunch, liquids, and binoculars and field guides if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh water habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). \$ (✓)

**Sunday, October 6**—Presidio. Meet at 9 a.m. in the overflow parking lot for Baker Beach, off Lincoln Blvd.—next to the Golden Gate Army Reserve Center (MUNI bus #29 stops across the street). Our morning walk will take place along Lobos Creek, the last free flowing stream in the city and county of San Francisco. In addition to birding in this riparian habitat, emphasis will be placed on geology, history, and culture of the area. (With the conversion of the Presidio to a unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Lobos Creek, and its role in the park is currently a focus of public hearings.) The walk will continue to Mountain Lake and return to the Baker Beach area by noon. Lunch is optional. Leader: Eve Iversen: (232-2817)

**Wednesday, October 9**—Mini-trip to East Bay shoreline. Meet at 9:15 a.m. From Hwy. 80 in Emeryville take Powell St. exit and go west. Meet at the north end of the parking lot by the Holiday Inn. We will be looking for shorebirds of the area. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

**Trips marked with \$** go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

**Carpooling** arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

**Problems:** If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399), or GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## OBSERVATIONS THRU JULY 15

There've been a lot of complaints about our cold, cold spring (nobody's raising a voice about the wetness of it all), but it's been a very birdy time—one of the best warbler seasons in a while.

The Pacific has been cold and surprisingly unproductive this spring—no upwelling in March with a consequent shortage of juvenile rockfish and few anchovies because of the cold. The breeding cormorants, murres, puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets may have hard going this year, but an abundance of krill bodes well for the Cassin's Auklets (PRBO). Pelagic trips out of Monterey and to the Farallones saw mostly expected species, although **Laysan Albatross** on the 1st and 17th of June in Monterey was fortuitous (MiF, MBI). Sooty Shearwaters are being seen by the thousands; Black-footed Albatross are practically abundant—up to thirty-five on a Monterey pelagic (MBI); and Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets and Tufted Puffins are around in small numbers.

A **Least Bittern** was a welcome find at Half Moon Bay on June 2 (SBT); likewise a Little Blue Heron at Alviso on the 11th (MiF). It is interesting to note that White-faced Ibis appear to be expanding their breeding range: there are reports of nesting from Sierra Valley where they were unknown as breeders a few years ago and there are up to five hundred at Kesterson NWR this year. Reports of Brant from Mono County (sixteen of them) were a bit of a surprise (ES, PJM). Wood Ducks bred at Five Brooks this year and at one point up to twenty adults and young could be seen on the pond. (AME, JMR, JM). A pair of Blue-winged Teal at the Spaletta Slop Ponds at Pt. Reyes

on June 3rd was noteworthy (RS), as was the female **King Eider** at Moss Landing from June 2nd to July 7th (CBe, RSTh, CP, CKf, SGI). Single Oldsquaws remained at Pt. Reyes thru July 7th (mob) and Princeton Harbor thru June 29th (RSTh, CBe, MDa). An immature Bald Eagle was spotted as it flew over Pt. Reyes on June 4th (DDeS).

Shorebirds are beginning now to return, but their numbers are still quite small and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Lake Chabot in Oakland on July 7th was an unexpected treat (MLa). Franklin's Gull is having a particularly "abundant" (if slightly more than half a dozen individuals over the last several months can be called that) spring—one more showed up with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at the Gualala River mouth on June 1st (BDP) and another was at Bolinas Lagoon on June 11th (KH). The Least Tern colony at the Alameda Naval Air Station appears to be doing well although once again house cat, red fox and Northern Harrier are proving to be serious obstacles to successful fledging. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen on S.E. Farallon on July 7th (fide DaS) and at Sunol Regional Park in late June (RL). A **Barred Owl** in Mendocino on June 2nd (DT) is the southern-most California record for this species—a coup for the counters, but potentially disturbing news for the Spotted Owl who does not compete well with this highly adaptive species.

Three Lesser Nighthawks were counted on S. E. Farallon between June 5 and July 7 (PP, DaS) and another at Bodega Bay on June 10 (DN), unusual coastal sightings for this normally inland species. At least one Pileated Woodpecker continued to be seen in Redwood Regional Park (RJR).

Single Chimney Swifts showed up

fleetingly at Pt. Reyes on June 2 (RS) and S. E. Farallon on July 7 and 8 (fide DaS). It was also good flycatcher watching at S. E. Farallon (definitely the place to be in early June): an Eastern Phoebe on the 2nd, the fourth spring record for the island; and on the 6th, a Tropical Kingbird and a Cassin's Kingbird, the second island record for the latter (DaS, PP). Just a few Eastern Kingbirds this year—S. E. Farallon on June 19th (PP); Pt. Reyes on the 20th (PT); and Stinson Gulch on July 2 (DaS). On July 9, a researcher at the Kern River preserve spotted an *empidonax* flycatcher singing an unusual song. It stayed around for at least two days and voice recordings were made—if verified, this would be the first California record of **Alder Flycatcher** (MW, SAL).

A Mountain Chickadee at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse on June 14 (GB) certainly deserved a double-take. Gray Catbird and Sage Thrasher were on S. E. Farallon on June 23 (PP), the same day there was a Brown Thrasher in Newark (MLE). Another Brown Thrasher caused comment in Lee Vining on June 10 (PJM).

The Inverness **Yellow-throated Vireo** was last seen on June 3 (fide KH)—a very good bird that showed itself to only a few. A total of three Red-eyed Vireos—Lee Vining, Pacifica and Stinson Beach—seemed to be fewer than most years (PJM, SSm, DaS).

#### WARBLERS

##### GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

1 6/3 S.E. Farallon PRBO

##### "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER

1 6/6 S. E. Farallon PRBO

##### TENNESSEE WARBLER

3 6/2 S. E. Farallon PRBO

2 6/3 Pt. Reyes RS, ASH

##### NORTHERN PARULA

1 5/26- Olema DaS,  
6/25 MBu, GB

1-4 5/27-  
7/2 Gazos Creek Rd. mob  
1 6/3 Palomarin RS  
1 6/4 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse fide SGI  
1 6/8 Inverness SFB, JM  
2 6/16-  
7/3 Five Brooks RS, DaS

##### CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

1,1 6/2, DaS, PRBO  
1 7/7 S. E. Farallon fide DaS  
1 6/4 Half Moon Bay BS fide  
RSTh

##### MAGNOLIA WARBLER

1 6/7 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse SMO, JEP  
JMHu  
1 6/10 Bodega Bay DN  
1,1 6/10,19 S. E. Farallon PP  
1 6/11 Lincoln Park, SF JSC  
1 6/15 Walker Creek, Mono Co. ES  
1 6/16 Five Brooks RS  
1 6/16-  
7/4 Gazos Creek Rd. mob

##### HERMIT WARBLER

1 6/1 Gazos Creek Rd. BS fide  
RSTh

##### BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

1 6/6-7 Pt. Reyes AG, mob

##### BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

1 6/2 Pt. Reyes RS

##### GRACE'S WARBLER

1 6/26 Mammoth Lakes DS

##### BAY-BREASTED WARBLER

1 6/2 Half Moon Bay RSTh, SBT  
1 6/6 Pt. Reyes JM  
1 6/7 S. E. Farallon PP

##### BLACKPOLL WARBLER

1,1 6/6,10 S. E. Farallon PP  
1 6/7 Bodega Bay DN

##### BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

1 6/1 Half Moon Bay RSTh  
1,1 6/3 Pt. Reyes RS, ASH  
1 6/6-7 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse KH, SA  
fide, JMHu

##### AMERICAN REDSTART

1,1 6/6,10 S.E. Farallon PP  
1 6/7 -8 Pt. Reyes Fish Docks GMk, JM  
1 6/9 Lincoln Park, SF DSg  
1 6/10 Lee Vining, Mono Co. PJM  
1 6/15-16 Walker Creek, Mono Co. ES  
1,1 6/6,10 S.E. Farallon PP  
1 6/7-10 Pt. Reyes SMO, JM  
1 6/10 Bodega Bay DN  
1 6/13 Lobitos Cr, S.M. Co. RSTh  
1 7/7 Limantour TM

**OVENBIRD**

1,2, 6/4-6

3,1 7,10 S. E. Farallon

2 6/6 Pt. Reyes

1 6/12 Mono Co.

PRBO

KH, JM

PJM

**NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH**

1 6/1 Golden Gate Park

1 6/3 Bolinas

1 6/10 Castro Valley

ASH, MLR

KH

MK

**LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**

1 6/2-3 S. E. Farallon

PRBO

**KENTUCKY WARBLER**

1 6/2-4 S. E. Farallon

PRBO

**MOURNING WARBLER**

1 6/7 S. E. Farallon

PP

**MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER**

1 6/16 Oakland

1 6/30 Gazos Creek Rd.

LJP, RL

LLu

**HOODED WARBLER**

1,1 6/7,19 S. E. Farallon

1,1 6/8,11 Golden Gate Park

PP

DSg, ASH

**CANADA WARBLER**

1 6/6 Pt. Reyes

KH, JM

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**

1 6/1 Half Moon Bay

1 6/9 Pescadero

RSTh

RSTh

**WARBLER ADDENDA:**

The Brewster's Warbler, a Blue-winged/golden-winged hybrid, was the first record for S. E. Farallon; and the Grace's Warbler was a first for Northern California. The MacGillivray's Warbler was nesting at Huckleberry Preserve in Oakland, which, although not a first, is highly unusual for this area.

And the list goes on: Summer Tanager on S. E. Farallon on June 6 (PRBO); Scarlet Tanager at Tilden Park and Hayward on June 4 and 20 (MNo, DH); fourteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; and three Indigo Buntings. A **Dickcissel** on S. E. Farallon on July 7 added to only a handful of spring records in Northern California (fide DaS). Three Brewer's Sparrows, Great Basin birds, were seen in early June on S. E. Farallon and outer Pt. Reyes (PRBO, JEP); and male Bobolinks were found in Mono Co. on June 14 (PJM) and at the Golden Gate Headlands on July 3 (CLF).

As was noted previously, S. E. Farallon was a good place to have been this past month-and-a-half, but it's not an available option for most of us; however, waves of migrants on S. E. Farallon are often paralleled by similar waves along the outer coast, as was demonstrated on June 6, 7, and 8th. In fact, on June 2, three Tennessee Warblers were banded on S. E. Farallon; on June 3, a Tennessee Warbler with a shiny band was seen at the Mendoza trees at Pt. Reyes and is presumed to be one of the S. E. Farallon birds meaning that in addition to the parallel waves there are also duplicate birds... good luck for all of us.

Mid-July seems to be like the Continental Divide of bird migration—before July 15, everybody is headed north and after the 15th, they're all going south. It's not quite that cleancut of course, but the first shorebirds are back and the nip of fall will soon be in the air (a crassly presumptuous statement on July 17, but a lot more acceptable on September 1 when this hits the mailbox). Here's to Dotterels and Stints.

**OBSERVERS:**

Steve Allison, Stephen F. Bailey, Christopher Benesh, Mark Blaur, Mark Butler, Gordon Byron, J. Scott Cox, Maryann Danielson, Dave DeSante, Jack Dineen, Alan M. Eisner, Mike Ezekial, Carter L. Faust, Mike Feighner, Mark Gary, Al Ghiorso, Steve Glover, Denise Hamilton, Keith Hansen, Alan S. Hopkins, Joan M. Humphrey, Clay Kempf, Martin Kolmeyer, Michael Larkin, Stephen A. Laymon, Margaret Lewis, Les Lieurence, Ron Lindemann, Gloria Markowitz, Peter J. Metropulos, Tim Molter, Joe Morlan, Scott Morrical, Dan Nelson, Mary Nordstrom, Cathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (thanks to Peter Pyle), Lina J. Prairie, Peter Pyle, Jean M. Richmond, Robert

J. Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Sauppe, Dave Shuford, David Sibley, Dan Singer, Scott Smithson, Rich Stallcup, Emilie Strauss, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Pepper Trail, Mary Whitfield, Anna Wilcox.

—ANN DEWART

## **CONSERVATION NOTES**

### **WETLANDS IN SAN FRANCISCO?**

The Golden Gate Audubon Society Conservation Committee has been hard at work to get some of the historically wetland habitat along the east shore of the City restored to its former state. Many of us were active in the successful efforts to get the wetland included in the Mission Bay Development Plan. This may still be a decade or two down the road, however. Other areas have turned up where wetland restoration is probable or possible.

#### **Yosemite Creek**

For a number of years now, members of the committee have been monitoring plans to restore a wetland at Yosemite Creek at the end of Yosemite Street off Third Street. This creek is part of the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. One bureaucratic hurdle after another has been cleared. Now it is up to the State Regional Water Quality Control Board to decide the extent of the toxics in the creek and whether and how much of the toxics should be removed. Meanwhile, the area is being used by migrating waterbirds and shorebirds that feed on the tidally exposed mudflats.

#### **Pier 98**

Pier 98 is another wetland in the making. This "pier" was created as a proposed site for the southern crossing of yet another bridge across the Bay. That notion was voted down, thank heavens, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission has instructed the Port of SF to remove the illegal fill. Mean-

while, many birds have taken to this area as roosting and nesting sites. This is the only spot in SF where American Avocets have recently been recorded to breed, and many species of tern can be found fishing near the outfall of the PG&E plant there. Two years ago the City's first Harris's Sparrow was found at this highly unlikely spot. As mitigation, the Port will put a cap over the middle of the area—where the toxic content is apparently too great and too expensive to remove—and develop the outer end as a wetland and wildlife refuge. The Conservation Committee continues to follow the progress there.

#### **Pier 94**

Pier 94 has been quietly reverting back to a bona fide wetland, complete with cordgrass and pickleweed. Our committee has alerted Mayor Agnos that this area deserves protection under the Wetlands Protection Act.

#### **Bay Shore Park**

The newest member of our committee, Jim Gravanis, informs us that the City's Master Plan calls for the creation of a Bay Shore Park on Hunters Point when the Navy vacates that area. We are recommending that this area be included as part of the Candlestick Point SRA so that it can be protected for public use.

Anyone who is interested in joining these ongoing efforts to develop and protect this wetland habitat for our feathered friends and thereby enhance the health of our Bay should feel free to attend one of our monthly meetings. You will be asked to contribute only as much as you are willing and able, but every little bit helps. The committee meets in San Francisco the first Monday of each month and in the East Bay the first Tuesday. Call the GGAS office for the location of the next meeting.

—JANICE ANDERSEN



## BACK YARD BIRDER

I once read that for its weight a feather is nature's strongest structure. True, or not, feathers literally *define* birds; they are unique to birds. Since their primary function is flight, they are vital to birds. In addition, they help control heat—fluffing or sleeking them varies the thickness of the feather-plus-air insulating layer. Feathers also shield the bird from injury, sunburn and rainfall. And, drab plumage provides camouflage while colorful feathers attract mates. In other words, feathers are essential to a bird's very existence. Therefore, bathing and preening are a big part of any bird's life.

To keep feathers in good condition, birds must either bathe or dust. A few species do both. In arid areas dusting seems to replace the water bathing common to most birds. Experiments with quail showed that frequent dusting is absolutely necessary to maintain the right amount of oil on the feathers. When not allowed to dust the quails' feathers quickly became oily and matted. Dusting seems to discourage bird lice as well. Watch a bird dusting in the warm sun and you know it feels very good.

Water bathing patterns vary according to the species of bird. E.g., swifts and swallows spend most of their time on the wing, so they take dips in water as they fly by. Flycatchers dive from perches into water while others such as Wrentits hop among dewy leaves for their morning baths. Waterbirds and seabirds have regular routines for bathing in their normal habitats. No birds wet themselves completely since they would be vulnerable to enemies when they couldn't fly. And waterbirds would literally sink if they were soaked to the skin.

Rain bathing is enjoyed by birds in dry areas. Instead of seeking shelter, a light rain is welcomed. During our drought I saw a Great Horned Owl perched mid-day taking advantage of

the first rain in months. She stayed there over an hour and seemed bemused when first I, then a neighbor, stopped to "hoot" to her.

Bathing or dusting is always followed by preening. Most birds have an oil gland at the base of the upper tail feathers. Oil is requisite to a bird's plumage. The bill is used to squeeze oil from this gland and then each individual feather is drawn through the beak to apply oil and to reconnect the separated barbs (like zipping a zipper). This technique also removes dirt and water and any ectoparasites they find are eaten. Since a bird can't reach its head with its bill, head scratching seems to work well.

Anting is another grooming behavior used by over 200 birds worldwide, mostly by passerines (songbirds). In passive anting a bird will lie down with wings outspread on an ant hill and will stir up the ants so they will crawl among its feathers. Or, in active anting, an ant is held in the bird's bill while it is rubbed along the feathers. It is known that ants release a powerful acid when threatened. Presumably this acid kills parasites. Since anting is done seasonally, in spring and summer, it may be that anting soothes the skin during molting.

Another related behavior is sunning. Have you ever seen a bird seemingly in a trance, lying on its side, wings drooping or outspread, tail fanned and feathers fluffed? Its bill is parted as it pants. Is it a victim of heat stroke? After all, you can approach it and it's not afraid. This is bizarre but common behavior among many species. There are several theories for this display:

- Heat drives ectoparasites to the surface where they can be eaten.
- The sun dries and fluffs the feathers, allowing good insulation.
- The sun's rays release Vitamin D from the preen oil which is ingested when the bird preens after sunning.

- Birds may increase their energy reserves by absorbing solar radiation.
- It feels good (especially during molting)!

It isn't a wonder that if your backyard contains a bird bath (preferably elevated and near vegetation for the wet birds to fly to) and/or a "dust bowl," you will have continuous bird watching entertainment. Since each species bathes at a preferred time (and some bathe up to 5 times daily during a heat wave), you should have plenty of action. Sit quietly and you may not even need binoculars.

—MEG PAULETICH

## A QUAIL'S TALE

First there were extended drought conditions, then a severe freeze. Most of us think of these in terms of water rationing, higher prices at the produce counters and backyard plants that lie dying, some never to recover; but all wildlife is affected also. For our official State Bird, the California Quail, water is very necessary for raising the next generation. According to Ron Russo, Naturalist with East Bay Regional Parks, the combination of drought, freeze, and an increase in feral cats has been very hard on the Quail population in Tilden Park. Although no actual studies have been done there seems to be a noticeable decline in Quail population there. (There is an unconfirmed report that Humboldt County has cancelled Quail season for 1991.)

Imagine my surprise and delight to discover one morning recently a pair of California Quail running around my backyard! At first I couldn't believe my eyes! As I watched, it became clear from their behavior it was a "Papa" Quail and "His Lady." Come to think of it, there is everything they need right here in our Alameda neighborhood, food, shelter and water.

Available food includes millet from

at least 3 feeding stations in nearby backyards and in my yard greens and bugs. (The chewed up leaves of my green beans and eggplant attest to the later.) Now these little birds are enjoying my labors. They like parsley and baby corn! They also like the clover in the back lawn and the weed seeds.

Shelter is offered by a variety of low growing shrubbery and a huge live oak tree in the next yard. At first there was a rock pile in the yard which they used a lot. Sorry little ones, I had to have it hauled away. (It wasn't compatible with my idea of a "neat" yard.)

Water, which is most important, is available. There are several birdbaths and at least 3 fish ponds. However, I immediately put out a large shallow dish of water on the ground. They are not in the habit of looking for water up on a pedestal, and the fish ponds have large overhanging rocks. I noticed right away that they were drinking from this dish of water several times a day. Maybe . . . just maybe they will stay here!

Unfortunately, this little bit of paradise has several hazards. The area is divided up into sections by backyard fences. These can be a nuisance for a bird used to traveling about by foot to hunt for food. One day "His Lady" inexplicably found herself on the opposite side of the fence from her mate. She could see him through the cracks, and when he called to her she frantically ran up and down the length of the fence for about half an hour. It seemed she temporarily forgot that she could fly! Finally he rejoined her. Fences can also hide danger. The household Tabby can creep quietly up to a fence, spring to the top and surprise the birds on the other side. Then there is danger which can strike from the sky with lightning speed. It comes in the form of a Cooper's Hawk's outstretched talons.

Each day that goes by and they are still in the neighborhood, I find that in

talking to my neighbors that almost everyone had a story to tell about their observations of the Quail in the backyards. One man enjoyed watching them take dust baths in his garden and another tried putting out a box for them to nest in. He was concerned mostly about cats. We both spend a lot of time looking out for cats.

On the fifth day, we all thought disaster had struck. About 9:00 a.m. an alarm was sounded. (That series of clucks and scolding sounds we had heard when they were upset over a cat.) "Papa" was up on the power line but his mate was nowhere to be seen. Was it a sudden flash of soft grey fur with sharp claws, or a rush of wings from the sky? No one could say. We only heard the scolding and afterward, incessant calling for two days. "Papa" Quail called for hours at a time and spent a great deal of time just standing in the middle of the yard looking very alone—"His Lady" was gone! I was devastated!

Then two days later, there she was by his side again. She had two broken tail feathers. Had she been in a skirmish? Did he really know where she was all that time? One naturalist that I spoke with suggested it was just a phase they were going through. That after 5 days, he decided that this was their spot and he was announcing to the world his territory.

The next question is will these birds nest in a backyard environment and be successful? Only time will tell. In the meantime, we have an opportunity to observe up close the behavior of a very unusual visitor. For the past three weeks these little birds have graced our yard with their elegance and warmed our hearts with their calls of Yoo-HOO or Where-ARE-you from our backyard fences.

All major projects in the garden and yard have been cancelled just in case they are nesting. Keep an eye out for

the next chapter in which we'll give you an update. These birds have taken over my life!

—PAT DONATO

## FALL BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening birding classes taught by **Joe Morlan** will be starting Sept. 3, 4 and 5. All classes meet 7–9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, second ed., by the National Geographic Society.

**Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology and behavior. Part A starts Sept. 3.

**Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesday. It is a continuing in-depth study of identification and status of North American land birds, including warblers, buntings and sparrows. Part A starts Sept. 5.

**Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of water birds including shorebirds, gulls and terns. Part A starts Sept. 5.

These classes are endorsed by Golden Gate Society. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

Fees are \$50 for each eight week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the San Francisco Community College, Community Services Offices, 561-1840. (More details are found at p.114, *The GULL* for July–August.)

## BAY SHORE STUDIES VOLUNTEERS

Help save the San Francisco Bay by teaching the next generation about the value of the Bay and its wildlife. Are you looking for a useful and enjoyable outdoor volunteer experience? Need something new in your life? Want some excitement, good supportive companionship, and a worthwhile cause? Join the Bay Shore Studies volunteer program at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center.

To become a Bay Shore Studies volunteer, sign up for the fall training classes which are Fridays, starting Sept. 20, 1991 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Audubon Center in Tiburon. You will learn about marine biology, bay ecology and how to lead groups of students on an educational field trip to the edge of the Bay. No background in science or teaching is required. All that is needed is an interest in the outdoors and a desire to share it with children. For more information please call Meryl Sundove at 388-2524.

### BE A SEED SALE VOLUNTEER (Get a discount)

Anyone who volunteers to help with our Fall Bird Seed Sale may claim a 15% discount on their purchases. We need help during sale hours at either location to coordinate orders and load bags of seed into cars. Call the office for details: 843-2222.

## LETTERS

San Francisco, CA

To The Editor:

The Persian Gulf war has had many tragic consequences which have only briefly been mentioned in the news

media. There has been a limited amount of coverage of the environmental devastation resulting from the war, particularly the spread of soot and acid rain over much of Iraq and Kuwait. However, much more information would be available if it were not for the censorship imposed by the US government regarding environmental matters in the Gulf.

*Scientific American* in its May (p. 24) and July (p. 20) issues documents how beginning Jan. 25 the Department of Energy (DOE) instituted a gag order stopping discussion of war related environmental matters. Researchers have been prevented from presenting information at scientific conferences. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also attempted to restrict dissemination of information about the detection of soot from burning oil facilities in the upper atmosphere at recording stations at Mauna Loa, Hawaii and Boulder, Colorado. Soot was being detected at Mauna Loa before the Kuwait oil fields were set ablaze, and it probably originated in fires started by the Allied bombardment of Iraqi oil installations.

There are two issues here. One is the environmental effect of the war. The other is the censorship of the news media and control of vital information by the US government that has been an obvious corollary of the war. Both issues are of great importance. The first because it relates to the problem of human induced climatic change, the second because it is an example of the increasing restrictions in the free flow of information and the consequent loss of our civil liberties.

As lies and half-truths come increasingly to dominate the mass media, publications like *The GULL* will become even more necessary to spread the truth.

—JOSEPH MAJER

Oakland, CA

Dear Mr. Berle,

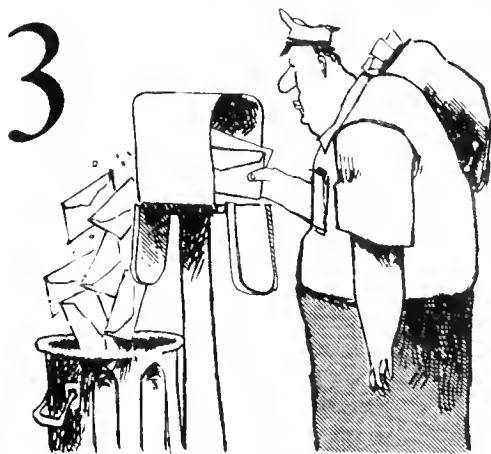
I deplore your decision to further turn National Audubon into another interchangeable cog in the national environmental lobby machine.

I joined National Audubon because its emphasis was on protecting birds.

I already support other elements of the general environmental lobby, and I believe that the money I have been sending National Audubon would be better used by a group more interested in birds, such as Golden Gate Audubon Society, my local chapter.

Accordingly, I shall not renew my subscription to National Audubon, which will have the added benefit of cutting down the junk mail I receive from your selling of your address lists.

Yours truly,  
COURTENAY PEDDLE



In this issue we were going to begin running National Audubon's *Ten Top Hints for Saving the Planet*. It occurred to us that #3 would make a good one to start with. Their message is "Write to companies now sending you junk mail and ask them to remove your name from their lists. You can request that your name not be sold to most large mailing list companies by writing to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Assn., 6 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

Dear GULL,

We recently went to Death Valley and noticed that the House Sparrows, those wonderfully adaptable little birds, would wait for a car to come in off the road, then display an obviously learned behavior. They would jump on the bumper of a car and begin eating the insects which had been lodged on the headlights and grill. Some of the insects were still alive, even though badly injured. In one of the most hostile environments on earth, these clever imports had found a food source unknowingly provided by mankind. The message is a simple one: learned behavior and techniques for survival are intrinsically connected to all our behaviors, the good, the bad and the unintentional.

LATIF & ALPHA GARDNER-HARRIS

## BIRDATHON SUCCESS BENEFITS MONO LAKE

The Mono Basin ecosystem will be the beneficiary of the hugely successful Bay Birdathon '91. The joint effort of GGAS and Marin Audubon Society raised over \$19,000. One-half of the proceeds will be donated by each of GGAS and Marin Audubon to National Audubon's Mono Lake Defense Fund. The GGAS Board has voted to grant the balance of GGAS's share of the Birdathon proceeds to the Mono Lake Committee, to further its efforts to protect Mono Lake. Marin Audubon expects to donate a substantial portion of its share to the Mono Lake Committee, as well.

Despite unsettled weather on April 25, a new record for Bay Birdathon was set by the Loonatics, who located 191 species of birds. The fundraising champs of Bay Birdathon '91 were the Semipulverized Plovers, the So-What Owls and the Not-So-Oldsquaws.

Thanks to all of our members and friends who contributed their time, talent, funds and support to a great birdathon.

## GGAS BUDGET 1991-92

Below is a table comparing the budget for 1990-91 with actual income and expenditure for that year and the budget approved by the board of directors for 1991-92. The revenue is stated conservatively, and the spending plan will be monitored to assure that overspending does not occur. Birdathon income and distribution has been included for the

first time in the budget for 1991-92.

The costs of maintaining the Rare Bird Alert and expenditures for Audubon Adventures are not included in the budget, being met from the funds maintained for each of these needs; contributions for these purposes are not reported in revenue. A review of the special funds and their status will be included in an early issue of *The GULL*.

		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
		1990-91	1990-91	1991-92
<b>REVENUE</b>				
	Dues	30,900	30,655	30,900
	Gifts and Bequests	3,900	4,380	4,000
	Interest	11,550	12,651	10,500
	Gull Subscriptions	1,800	1,913	1,800
	Environmental Federation	240	3,787	2,250
	Net General Sales	3,000	2,209	3,000
	Net Seed Sales	4,500	4,209	4,500
	Birdathon*	0	0	11,400
	Lobbyist Appeal	0	0	5,000
	Fund-raising Event**	0	784	2,100
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>55,890</b>	<b>60,588</b>	<b>75,450</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
	Office	6,100	10,437	8,120
	Salaries	15,700	13,729	17,000
	Gull	25,500	26,469	26,660
	Meetings	800	1,112	755
	Christmas Counts	700	549	600
	Burrowing Owl Study	0	1,000	0
	Field Trip	100	131	100
	Conservation	1,800	1,738	3,000
	Accounting	1,650	1,729	1,700
	Taxes	150	123	130
	Insurance	1,200	876	740
	Conferences	550	362	550
	Contrib to other Orgs	1,275	1,050	1,075
	Books, etc.	235	266	150
	Lobbyist	100	0	5,000
	Bird-a-thon (NAS)*	0	0	5,700
	Bird-a-thon (MLC)*	0	0	5,700
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>55,860</b>	<b>59,571</b>	<b>76,980</b>

\*Bird-a-thon is included for the first time in 1991-92.

\*\*In 1990-91 this was from Pelagic Trips.

## AN EXCHANGE: DEBT-FOR-NATURE

(reprinted from the July-August *Western Tanager*, Los Angeles Chapter of National Audubon)

In May of 1989 an historic event took place in Tehama County. Dye Creek Wildlife Preserve was opened—the first nature sanctuary in the United States acquired through a debt-for-nature swap.

The swap gave the people of California 37,000 acres of gently rolling hills, rare blue oaks, Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles. It was a landmark event not only for what it preserves for future generations, but for the promise it holds for protecting our environment by uniting government, business and non-profit organizations in a common environmental goal.

California is blessed with a wealth of natural resources. But many of those resources are in danger of being lost forever as development encroaches. Will we save the living diversity of unspoiled California for future generations, or will we leave them a legacy of development that was blind to the riches of our natural heritage?

• • • • •

The Dye Creek swap was proposed by the State Controller's office in a settlement of a state lawsuit against Bank of America. With the help of the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the American Farmland Trust and the Defenders of Wildlife, my office conducted a lengthy search of environmentally precious preserves in California owned by the Bank. The Bank agreed to turn over to the state more than 40,000 acres of precious wildlife preserves worth approximately \$17.2 million.

The Dye Creek property, the largest piece of these ecologically sensitive lands, includes redwood forests, archaeological sites and riparian habitats on the Russian and Sacramen-

to Rivers, steelhead and salmon spawning grounds, oak woodlands and grasslands. These lands and the endangered wildlife within them have been preserved and protected for generations of Californians to enjoy. The Nature Conservancy manages Dye Creek, and the land is cared for in a way that protects sensitive species which enables Californians to enjoy and learn about them.

The Dye Creek debt-for-nature swap is but one example of a creative solution designed to protect the environment. As a member of the State Lands Commission, I helped structure a settlement of a lawsuit with Unocal which resulted in the state receiving five environmentally sensitive parcels of land valued at more than \$20 million in addition to \$39 million in cash. The Ballona Wetlands settlement is yet another example of how the public and the environment benefitted from creative problem solving with the goal of preserving public resources.

If we are to secure the environmental blessings of this planet for future generations, we must fashion innovative techniques to halt the destruction of crucial resources and the extinction of priceless species, not only in California, but across this country and around the world.

GRAY DAVIS, State Controller

## RIPARIAN SYSTEMS III

Cal-Davis offers the third conference on California Riparian Systems at the University Nov. 14-15, 1991. It warrants mention if only because it offers something new—"Talkshops." Stream-side resources are important, and their protection is getting attention. This is a chance to learn what progress is being made, what the challenges are for the nineties. Call Dana Abell, (916) 757-8893 for information.

## GIFTS and BEQUESTS

**FOR GGAS  
In Honor of  
Ted Dement**

Louise Hayes  
Fred Hellman

**Gift of**

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sandretto  
Carlos Jordan  
Peggy Klenz  
Carlos Jordan

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

## GORILLAS/GUERILLAS IN EMERYVILLE

Well, if I like wildlife so much, then why do I have such a hard time with "guerilla art"?

As an undergraduate student, I studied sculpture at Rhode Island School of Design. I went on to get my master's degree in sculpture from another well known art academy, and I have spent the better part of my adult life as an artist. In fact I became a birdwatcher by way of my art work. I became an environmentalist the same way.

Because of my art and environmental background, I am faced with a problem; namely, what to do about the *art* in the Emeryville Crescent. Artists, free spirits and some others call it art. I know that there are people not so kind in their description. I believe what we call it is not the issue, nor the point.

The background and the history of the art in the Emeryville Crescent is romantic. This history is also important in considering the issues we face today. It's important to recognize the real changes that have occurred in the area,

changes in the natural habitat, and changes in the immediate neighborhood.

Legend has it that in the mid-60's some art teachers brought students down to a junk filled swamp, on the edge of the Bay in Emeryville to make guerilla art. Nobody much cared, and nobody objected. That swamp (Now known as a tidal wetland, home to endangered species, an abundance of other wildlife, a scarce and endangered habitat) collected tons of debris. Great materials for budding artists, and free, too. The area was surrounded by a freeway (highway 80), a landfill (now known as the Emeryville Peninsula, inhabited and gentrified by the modern world), and the Bay Bridge toll plaza entryway (the maze).

Who cared? The artists could make guerilla art with all the flotsam and jetsam that the tides could throw into this natural catch. There was and still is a natural audience for this art, tens of thousands of commuters each day, now more than ever. And as legend and photographs attest, some wonderful "works of art" were created there on the Emeryville mudflats.



Despite all protest to the contrary, things have changed. Unfortunately for this delicate habitat, the artists' aspiration to make guerilla art is still nearly the same as it was thirty years ago. However, the art form seems to have lost its roots, its tradition of using the washed-up debris that the site provides naturally. Often the work is now made up of manufactured synthetic stuff brought to the site, and by its own admission a lot of the work is not even art, but rather political protest or some other kind of statement.

Once I ran across a beautiful sign made by professional sign makers, which stated that "nurses need more pay." I am sure I agree, but not at the expense of our shared environment. Found objects have been traded in for fluorescent paints and rude-colored plastics that will not degrade gracefully, nor in our lifetime. Groups stage parties, fraternities hold rituals, people work at night. They carry in tools, they drive in. All in the name of their cause.

There are signs posted around the Crescent, paid for by GGAS, asking people to be sensitive to the fragile environment. Some people steal the signs, others simply ignore them. I once encountered two older gentlemen who were against one of the wars our government was engaged in, so they marched their protest signs out into the fragile wetland area of the marsh, walking right past one of our posted GGAS signs. We had words. I requested that they: "Think globally, and act locally." I even suggested that their contention that their end justified their means, at the expense of our local threatened environment was, in my opinion, cut from the same cloth as the government they wanted to criticize. They understood this message, and they departed.

Others replace them. This summer many have come to fill the marsh with

their own art or message. In the name of the conservation of this delicate habitat I ask these people to refrain. I ask them to stay out of this marsh, and to be sensitive to all the remaining marshes, and to all of our fragile habitats.

This is a plea for our threatened wetlands. This is a plea for the Clapper Rail, a magnificent creature which is on the absolute brink of extinction. This is a plea for all of us to speak up when we need to. I am certain that the ends do not always justify the means, and we must act with our conscience, individually, as a group, as a regional community, as people who know the difference between right and wrong. I ask for your help, artists and non-artists alike. We all live here together, and we all need to work together to protect this wonderful place we are fortunate enough to call home.

BRUCE WALKER

## DESERT SLIDE SHOW

"Happy Canyon: An Endangered Desert Oasis" is the subject of a talk and slide show to be given by Steve Tabor of the Desert Survivors and Sierra Club on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at the College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Ave., Oakland, sponsored by the Natural History section of the Sierra Club. There is no charge for the program.

Happy Canyon is a well-watered desert canyon in the Panamint Mountains near Death Valley. It is eligible for Wilderness classification but the Bureau of Land Management is reluctant to recommend it for inclusion in the Wilderness System. Steve recently led a backpack trip there as a part of a series of explorations of California's desert lands.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244  
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970  
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education  
under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, marin  
and Sequoia Audubon Socieites  
Gary Holloway, President

Dan Murphy's letter will return in  
*The GULL* for October.

## FIRST FALL SEED SALE

For some, Fall signals the return to school, the start of football season. For GGAS it means planning for a whopping Seed Sale. Watching birds at feeders has become a popular activity and many have come to depend on us for the food. And—our sales fund a larger and larger portion of our conservation work.

We offer a variety of reasonably priced high quality seed mixtures which are well-suited to attract local bird populations. The feeders we feature are selected as the best quality for the price.

Last winter's freeze focused attention on our resident Anna's Hummingbirds and brought increased interest in feeding them. We have stocked an 8 oz. size window feeder (attached by suction cup), an easy to clean 12 oz. flat saucer design from Aspects, as well as the standard 16 oz. hanging bottle design from past sales. Included are instructions for formula and cleaning.

Suet (beef or mutton fat) is the tastiest, least expensive, and most readily available source of animal fats for birds. It is popular with nearly all birds in winter, especially when mixed with weeds and other tid-bits. Finding a local source for suet in our super-market world is not easy, so we will offer suet cakes, to be used in suet basket feeders. The cakes consist of beef suet, sunflower seeds, millet, and grain products.

To avoid disappointment we urge you to order and prepay to guarantee the type and quantity of seed you require. We will have some extra quantities available, but not in the 50-pound size.

And for your convenience we are including a Friday afternoon pick-up date for those whose Saturdays are too hectic: this only applies to Berkeley pick-ups, however.

## ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Please order by Sept. 20, at the latest, making your check payable to GGAS. Confirmation will be sent a week prior to the sale.

Berkeley pick-up, Friday, Sept. 27 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 28 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., at the GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G. Parking is on the north side of the building.

The San Francisco location is near the Sunset Reservoir on 28th Ave. Pick-up will be only on Saturday, Sept. 28, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. You will be notified of the exact location.

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## — SEED DESCRIPTIONS —

**GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX:** Top quality specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area birds. It contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed. No waste seed. The presence of black oil sunflower seed attracts large numbers of desirable birds.

**WESTERN WILD BIRD SEED:** Mixed and packaged by Volkman, this mix is composed of only red and white millet—no sunflower seeds (no squirrels). It contains no low-cost fillers the birds will flick aside.

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED:** It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, jays, finches and many other species. This is the best all-around seed for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

**NIGER (THISTLE SEED):** Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. It is a tiny seed, rich in oil, and is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard. Needs a thistle feeder.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

ORDER AND PREPAY BY SEPT. 20 / PICK UP ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

SEED			QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX	20 lbs.	\$10.00		
	50 lbs.	\$19.00		
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.	\$ 9.00		
	50 lbs.	\$16.00		
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs.	\$15.00		
	50 lbs.	\$25.00		
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5lbs.	\$10.50		

FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$28.00		
THISTLE FEEDER	\$10.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (window)	\$10.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (saucer-style)	\$15.00		
HUMMINGBIRD (16oz. bottle)	\$12.00		
SUET CAGE (2"×5"×5")	\$ 5.50		
SUET CAKE (12oz.)	\$ 1.50		
FEEDER POLE (sectional)	\$16.00		

Be sure to include  
your check with a  
stamped and self-  
addressed envelope.

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CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS	
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THE GULL

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Dan Murphy  
Bruce Howard

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288  
Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,  
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

*The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.